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23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
24 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

25 BARTELL RANCH LLC, et al.,

26 Case No.: 3:21-cv-80-MMD-CLB  
**(LEAD CASE)**

27 Plaintiffs,

28 v.  
**JOINT MOTION BY  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLAINTIFFS AND  
FEDERAL DEFENDANTS FOR STAY  
OF BRIEFING ON PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES AND  
EXPENSES**

ESTER M. MCCULLOUGH, et al.,

Defendants,

and

LITHIUM NEVADA CORPORATION,

Intervenor-Defendant

1 WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT, et al.,  
2 Plaintiffs,  
3 and  
4 RENO SPARKS INDIAN COLONY,  
5 Intervenor-Plaintiff,  
6 and  
7 BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE,  
8 Intervenor-Plaintiff,  
9 v.  
10 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE  
11 INTERIOR, et al.,  
12 Defendants,  
13 and  
14 LITHIUM NEVADA CORPORATION,  
15 Intervenor-Defendant.

Case No.: 3:21-cv-103-MMD-CLB  
**(CONSOLIDATED CASE)**

19 Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project, et al. (WWP), and the Federal Defendants, the  
20 United States Bureau of Land Management et al. (BLM), file this Joint Motion to stay briefing  
21 on WWP's Motion for attorneys' fees and expenses, in order to facilitate negotiations that may  
22 result in settlement of WWP's Motion.

24 Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. §2412 (EAJA), WWP filed its  
25 Motion on November 10, 2023 (ECF No. 309). The Federal Defendants' response to WWP's  
26 Motion is due on November 24, 2023. In order to meet EAJA's filing deadline, 28 U.S.C.  
27 §2412(d)(1)(B), and in support of potential settlement, WWP filed a "placeholder" fees motion,  
28 meeting the requirements of EAJA, while allowing the parties to pursue settlement and avoid

1 further briefing and evidence submittals while negotiations continue. *See Greenpeace v. Stewart,*  
2 No. 17-35945, 2020 WL 2465321, \*4-5 (9th Cir. Commissioner, May 12, 2020)(approving use  
3 of placeholder fees motion to facilitate settlement).  
4

5 WWP and the Federal Defendants are currently engaged in negotiations and propose that  
6 briefing be stayed while these discussions are ongoing. In the event that a settlement cannot be  
7 reached, the parties further propose that WWP and the Federal Defendants will inform the Court  
8 and, at that time, file a joint schedule to allow WWP to amend its Motion and submit additional  
9 declarations and materials in support of its Motion, as well as a schedule for the Federal  
10 Defendants' response and WWP's reply.  
11

12 Accordingly, WWP and the Federal Defendants respectfully request that this Court issue  
13 an Order such that:  
14

- 15 1. Briefing on WWP's Motion is stayed;
- 16 2. The parties will submit a status report on the potential settlement of WWP's  
17 Motion within 60 days of the date of this Court's Order on this Joint Motion; and
- 18 3. If settlement cannot be reached, WWP and the Federal Defendants will file a joint  
19 schedule for WWP to amend its Motion, and include additional declarations and materials in  
20 support, as well as for the Federal Defendants' response and WWP's reply.  
21

22 Respectfully submitted this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

23 /s/ Roger Flynn  
24 Roger Flynn  
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11 */s/ Michael K. Robertson (signed with permission)*

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16 Attorney for Federal Defendants

17 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

18 I hereby attest that I served the foregoing on counsel of record for all parties via the  
19 Court's CM/ECF system, this 10th day of November, 2023.

20 */s/ Roger Flynn*  
21 Roger Flynn

22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

23 DATED: November 13, 2023



24  
25 CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE  
26 MIRANDA M. DU  
27